

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NEA-10 EA-10
SAS-02 /165 W

-----046843 030828Z /10

R 021347Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5610

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: BENN COMMENTS ON IEA

REF: LONDON 11693

1. MISSION HAS DISCUSSED REMARKS MADE BY UK ENERGY SECRETARY BENN AT JULY 18 LONDON ENERGY SEMINAR WITH IEA DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WALLY HOPKINS, WHO ALSO ATTENDED THIS EVENT. HOPKINS READS BENN'S COMMENTS AS BEING MUCH LESS NEGATIVE TOWARD IEA THAN IMPLIED BY REFTEL.

2. ACCORDING TO HOPKINS, BENN DID STATE THAT AT THE TIME OF ITS CREATION THE IEA WAS REGARDED BY SOME AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR CONFRONTATION, WHICH HE REGAR-
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DED AS UNDERSTANDABLE IN VIEW OF "SOME OF THE SPEECHES DR. KISSINGER WAS MAKING AT THAT TIME". MR. BENN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE FRENCH, "BEING BRILLIANT DIPLOMATS" QUITE UNDERSTANDABLY SAW THE DANGERS OF THIS SITUATION AND DECIDED TO STAY OUT AND TO PURSUE THE PRODUCER-CONSUMER DIALOGUE THROUGH THE CIEC, WHICH MR. BENN DESCRIBED AS A "CONCILIATORY APPROACH".

3. BENN MADE IT VERY CLEAR IN SUBSEQUENT REMARKS, HOWEVER, THAT HIS GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE IEA TO BE A USEFUL METHOD OF COOPERATION ON ENERGY MATTERS, WHICH HAD LED TO ITS MEMBERS "TAKING ENERGY MORE SERIOUSLY", AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS PARTICIPATED FULLY IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE IEA AND INTENDS TO CONTINUE DOING SO.

4. HOPKINS REPORTS THAT BENN SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE NECESSARY TO ENLARGE THE AMBIT OF ENERGY COOPERATION BEYOND THE PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE IEA, AND ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT A WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE MIGHT BE A USEFUL MEANS OF ACHIEVING THIS. BENN POINTED OUT THAT AT SOME POINT THE EASTERN COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE ENERGY DIALOGUE IN VIEW OF THEIR IMPORTANCE BOTH AS PRODUCERS AND S CONSUMERS OF ENERGY, MAKING REFERENCE TO THE REMARKABLY PARALLEL APPROACHES EVEN NOW BEING TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES AND USSR ON THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION.
KATZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENERGY, POLICIES, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS24190
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780317-1160
Format: TEL
From: PARIS USOECD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808107/aaaadltk.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ce038b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LONDON 11693
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1560957
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BENN COMMENTS ON IEA
TAGS: ENRG, UK, OECD, IEA, (BENN, ANTHONY WEDGEWOOD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ce038b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014